IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying training needs for biomedical equipment in a medical ~~facility~~ institution, the method comprising:

collecting identification and operation data associated with a plurality of biomedical equipment components;

storing the collected data in a central database;

analyzing the operation data to identify at least one operational parameter affected by operator activities with the equipment components; ~~and~~

identifying a training need based on the analyzed operational parameter; and

outputting a report indicating the identified training need.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operational parameter includes operational errors for a type of equipment component.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operational parameter includes failures for a type of equipment component.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data includes equipment type, and wherein the training need is identified by analyzing the operational parameter for a plurality of equipment components of the equipment type.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data includes data representative of individual operators utilizing the equipment components.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the medical institution includes a plurality of departments, and wherein the data includes data representative of the department to which equipment components are assigned.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the medical institution includes a plurality of geographically dispersed facility sites, and wherein the data includes data representative of the facility site at which equipment components are located.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[8]], wherein the report is generated at a location remote from the medical institution and is transmitted to the medical institution by a configurable network link.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the network link includes the Internet.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of associating the stored data into ~~logical~~ groups by equipment type, and wherein the training need is identified for an equipment type group.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising associating the stored data into ~~logical~~ groups by equipment location, wherein the training need is identified for an equipment type group and an equipment location group.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data further identifies an equipment manufacturer for each equipment component, and wherein the training need is identified for equipment components from a particular equipment manufacturer.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data further includes data representative of downtime for the equipment components, and wherein the parameter includes downtime.

15. (currently amended) A system for identifying training needs associated with a plurality biomedical equipment components in a medical institution, the system comprising:

a central database configured to store data representative of the equipment components, the stored data including operation data and identification data identifying at least an equipment type;

a data analysis module configured to arrange the operation data into ~~logical~~ groupings and to analyze the operation data based on the ~~logical~~ groupings, the ~~logical~~ groupings including an equipment type grouping; and

a report generator configured to generate a report including an arrangement of the analyzed operation data based on the ~~logical~~ groupings, wherein a training need is identifiable based on the arrangement.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operation data includes breakdowns associated with the equipment components, and wherein the arrangement of the analyzed operation data comprises a presentation of the breakdowns associated with a particular equipment type.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operation data includes operator errors associated with the equipment components, and wherein the arrangement of the analyzed operation data comprises a presentation of the operator errors associated with a particular equipment type.

18. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the arrangement of the operation data includes a first presentation of the operation data for a particular medical facility and a second presentation of the operation data for a plurality of medical facilities.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the medical facilities are at geographically diverse locations.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a user interface configured to provide access to the generated report.

21. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the report is generated at a location remote from the medical institution and is transmitted to the medical institution via a communication network.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the communication network includes the Internet.

23. (currently amended) A method for identifying a training need associated with biomedical equipment in a medical institution, the method comprising:

storing data associated with the equipment in a central database, the stored data including equipment operation data and equipment identification data;

~~logically~~ grouping the stored equipment operation data in accordance with the corresponding equipment identification data;

analyzing the equipment operation data based on the ~~logical~~ grouping;

generating a presentation of the analyzed equipment operation data in accordance with the ~~logical~~ grouping; ~~and~~

identifying a training need associated with a particular piece of equipment based on the presentation; and

outputting a report indicating the identified training need.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the ~~logical~~ grouping comprises an equipment type grouping, an equipment manufacturer grouping, and an equipment location grouping.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the equipment location grouping comprises locations of the pieces of equipment.

26. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the location grouping references a plurality of geographically diverse medical facilities.

27. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the operation data includes breakdowns and operator errors associated with the equipment.

28. (currently amended) A system for of identifying training needs for biomedical equipment in a medical facility, the ~~method~~ system comprising:

means for collecting identification and operation data associated with a plurality of biomedical equipment components;

means for storing the collected data in a central database;

means for analyzing the operation data to identify at least one operational parameter affected by operator activities with the equipment components; and

means for identifying a training need based on the analyzed operational parameter.